

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 09952

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG PINS EG LE XF
SUBJECT: FONMIN KAMEL ON SOUTH LEBANON AND ARAB SUMMIT

REF: CAIRO 9552

1. SOUTH LEBANON: DURING MY MEETING WITH FONMIN KAMEL, APRIL 3, HE AGAIN EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER WHAT HE CALLED ISRAELI PROCRASTINATION IN WITHDRAWING FROM SOUTH LEBANON. I TOLD HIM WE CONTINUE TO URGE THE ISRAELIS TO WITHDRAW AND THAT THEY HAVE ASSURED US, AS I UNDERSTOOD WEIZMAN ASSURED PRESIDENT SADAT, THAT THEY INTEND TO WITHDRAW AS SOON AS UNIFIL IS IN A POSITION TO TAKE OVER STRATEGIC POINTS IN THE AREA. IN FACT, I UNDERSTOOD WEIZMAN MIGHT BE MAKING PUBLIC STATEMENT VERY SOON ABOUT ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL TIMETABLE. I ALSO TOLD KAMEL THAT WE CONTINUE TO URGE LEBANESE TO SEND MILITARY FORCES, EVEN IF TOKEN, AND POLICE TO SOUTH LEBANON TO COOPERATE WITH UNIFIL, BUT ARE ENCOUNTERING TOUGH SLEDDING IN PERSUADING
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PAGE 02 CAIRO 09952 042256Z

THEM TO DO SO. KAMEL SAID AN ISRAELI PUBLIC STATEMENT OF WITHDRAWAL TIMETABLE WOULD BE WELCOME. HE HOPED IT WOULD BE TIED TO UNIFIL DEPLOYMENT RATE AND NOT TO WHEN LEBANESE FORCES ARE SENT TO THE AREA. THE LATTER, AS HE SAW IT, WOULD BE NO MORE THAN A SIGNAL THAT ISRAELIS INTEND TO STAY A LONG TIME. HE RECALLED THAT AT RECENT ARAB LEAGUE FONMINS' MEETING, MOST PARTICIPANTS HAD URGED LEBANESE

REPRESENTATIVE TO SEND WHATEVER MILITARY FORCES COULD BE SPARED TO SOUTH LEBENON. DELEGATES HAD BEEN TOLD THIS IS GOL INTENTION.

2. ARAB SOLIDARITY: AS DEPT AWARE, KAMEL, LIKE HIS CLOSE COLLEAGUE MINSTATE BOUTROS GHALI, HAS FOR SOME TIME BEEN CONCERNED ABOUT GOE'S ISOLATION IN ARAB WORLD AS RESULT SADAT TRIP TO JERUSALEM. THUS HE SPOKE WITH OBVIOUS GRATIFICATION ABOUT MEASURES TAKEN AT RECENT AL FONMINS' MEETING TO SEEK TO RE-ESTABLISH SOME ELEMENT OF ARAB SOLIDARITY. ALTHOUGH NO DATE HAD YET BEEN FIXED, HE THOUGHT NUMAYRI, AS HEAD OF NEWLY FORMED ARAB "SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE," WOULD BEFORE LONG VISIT EGYPT TO TRY TO BEGIN RECONCILIATION PROCESS. HE WAS EQUALLY PLEASED THAT SAUDI FONMIN SAUD BIN FAYSAL HAD DESCRIBED SADAT PEACE INITIATIVE AS SUCCESSFUL AS EVIDENCED BY U.S. ADMINISTRATION'S FIRM STAND DURING RECENT BEGIN VISIT. SAG, KAMEL OPINED, MAY BECOME A MORE VOCAL SUPPORTER OF SADAT INITIATIVE AND TRY TO USE ITS INFLUENCE WITH SYRIANS AND OTHER ARAB CRITICS TO MODERATE THEIR CRITICISM. SAUDIS, TOO, ARE ANXIOUS RESTORE ARAB SOLIDARITY.

3. ARAB SUMMIT: IF THINGS WENT WELL, AS HE HOPED THEY WOULD, KAMEL THOUGHT AN ARAB SUMMIT CONFERENCE MIGHT BE POSSIBLE IN "ONE OR TWO MONTHS," PERHAPS TOWARD THE END OF MAY OR EARLY JUNE. ASKED IF EGYPT WOULD ATTEND SUCH CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 CAIRO 09952 042256Z

A CONFERENCE, KAMEL INDICATED THAT SADAT WOULD DO SO. EILTS

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